

MASTER PLAN EFFORT TO FOCUS ON HOMES AND OPEN SPACE

Developing a plan for Sheffield's housing and open space and recreation needs are the next priorities for the Sheffield Master Plan effort. The two areas were chosen by the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC), which was formed last winter under the aegis of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board. The town asked the IAC to identify two of the many worthwhile goals in the plan to be its initial focus, so as not to spread the committee too thin. Community housing and completing the open space and recreation plan are goals that complement each other under the guidelines of the Master Plan and the State's smart growth policies.

Two subcommittees have been formed, made up of IAC members and other interested members of the community to follow up on recommendations made in those areas in the town's Master Plan (see box on page 3). Additional volunteers are welcome. Anyone interested can contact the Selectmen, Planning Board or current IAC members.

The Sheffield Master Plan is a consensus of Sheffield residents creating a vision for how the town can grow and change while maintaining its rural New England character. Work on the Master Plan began in 2002. After two years of research, analysis, input from dozens of volunteers and half a dozen public workshops and forums, a draft plan was discussed at a final public forum in June 2004. The Board of Selectmen then officially accepted the plan and submitted it to the State of Massachusetts in accordance with the terms of the grant under which the Plan was funded.

The Planning Board then reviewed and officially accepted the Master Plan, as required by the State. Last year, the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board began to shepherd the plan into the implementation phase.

Some Master Plan recommendations already underway include the Planning Board's reviewing of Sheffield's zoning for consistency with the Master Plan, smart growth principles and state law; the right-to-farm bylaw passed at last year's Town Meeting; establishment of an agricultural commission passed on this year's warrant; and the Water Supply Protection District update, that also passed on this year's warrant.

Initial members of the IAC recruited from the community included Louis Aragi, Tammy Blackwell, Peter Cherneff, Harry Conklin, Bart Ellsbach, Frank Garretson, Julie Hannum, John



The Implementation Advisory Committee meets at Town Hall to coordinate follow-up to the master plan.

James, Kathy Orlando, Bob Pasqualina, Don Ward and John Wightman. Ellsbach, representing the Planning Board, and Hannum, representing the Board of Selectmen, are serving as co-chairs, a responsibility that will rotate. Additional volunteers are welcome on this committee as well.

Community housing

The goal of this part of the Master Plan is to provide housing opportunities for people of all ages and income levels while preserving the small-town atmosphere and rural character of Sheffield. The IAC has charged this group with coming up with viable options and strategies to address familiar issues such as how, given the ever-increasing cost of real estate, children of current residents, older residents on limited incomes or those in the local workforce can afford to live in town.

As noted in the Master Plan, the vitality of a community depends on a mix of socioeconomic groups. The plan also stresses rehabilitating and adapting existing buildings as an important strategy in creating housing opportunities, along with the careful choice of sites for new housing that stays in keeping with the neighborhood.

The subcommittee working on this has been meeting with local and regional housing resources. They've found there's no one-

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Memorial Day is May 29! See Page 6
for parade information.

size-fits-all answer. The key is tailoring solutions to Sheffield's specific needs, the way other communities have done. One idea is separating the value of land—the commodity that's in short supply and therefore rising in price—from the actual cost of the buildings. The concept can be used with existing buildings, rehabilitation and new construction, in conjunction with, other legal tools such as covenants that keep values tied to local economic indicators and resources.

Another approach is to subsidize the cost of buying existing or creating new housing. Other communities have used a variety of funding mechanisms including the Community Preservation Act, funds from transfer fees on real estate transactions, . private and foundation funding (which tends to be more flexible in meeting communities' needs) and state and federal funding, which tend to be suitable in very specific circumstances, when the community's needs match the requirements of the funding. The state Priority Development Fund, however, is not restrictive and could be available to help the town and interested owners assess options for rehabilitation of existing housing or site assessment for new homes.

Open space and recreation plan

Sheffield's last Open Space and Recreation Plan is almost 20 years old, and a lot has changed in that time. Still, the recommendations in 1987's five-year action plan and the goals and recommendations of the 2002 Master Plan show that many of the values have remained the same, even as some of the Sheffield's open space treasures—farmland, forested mountainsides, views, wetlands, scenic roads—have been lost.

But much open space in Sheffield remains, thanks to good fortune and the stewardship of current owners. This open space is crucial in maintaining Sheffield's character—its quality of life, its recreational resources and its economy—not to mention preserving its wildlife and water.

The subcommittee working on open space is reviewing the relevant Master Plan sections to put them into the form required by the state and to create a new five-year plan with priorities and benchmarks for the Town to use as a guide in conserving resources and addressing the recreational needs of the community.

In addition to important farmland and forest or wildlife corridors, the Open Space and Recreation Plan will highlight scenic roads and viewsheds, recreational trails and canoe and water access points. The plan will note where existing recreational opportunities may need to be secured permanently including hunting and fishing areas, as well as resources and strategies that might be available for protecting or managing them. Local scenic road or scenic mountain programs as well as conservation and trail easements and working with land conservation and trail groups can be valuable tools to meet some of these goals. Funding to meet these goals is available through the state's agricultural preservation restriction program that pays farmers for the development rights on their land and could be available through the Community Preservation Act if the Town were to adopt it, or possibly from the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area once that program is finalized. Private and foundation funding can also be pursued.

Each subcommittee reports back to the IAC, which in turn keeps the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board up-to-date, to ensure coordination. All meetings are posted at Town Hall and on the Town website and are open to the public.

—Bob Pasqualina, Julie Hannum & Kathy Orlando

THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

There are a lot of things in life we can't control, but there are some things we can significantly influence. This is one of them. By stepping up now, we can help shape the future of Sheffield. It's important that you join us, lend us your expertise, your support and your thoughts.

Contact Julie Hannum (229-8980; jshannum@adelphia.net) or Bart Elsbach (229-2003; elsbach@verizon.net) to say you are interested in being part of securing Sheffield's future. Those specifically interested in the Open Space and Recreation Plan can contact Kathy Orlando (229-8789; wildkato@aol.com).

Community Housing Subcommittee

Peter Cheneff	John James
Frank Garrettson	Kathy Orlando
Anna James	Bob Pasqualina

Open Space and Recreation Plan Subcommittee

Tammy Blackwell	Twiggs Myers
Bill Connell	Kathy Orlando, chair
Anna James	Jenny Russell
Jim Kelly	Don Ward
Allison Lasso	John Wightman
Jimmy Larkin	

HEARD THE BUZZ?

Ashley Falls is humming. Old Castle Retail Inc., the cement plant on Clayton Rd., North Canaan, CT, has installed an industrial blower motor that emits an industrial humming, 24 hours a day, 6am Monday through 11pm Friday. It's clearly noticeable in the quiet evening hours if you are standing on the Village Green and sadly audible around the village and within our houses.

If you're concerned about the noise level in Ashley Falls, contact the Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society. For more information, call Richard Cherneff, vice president of the society, at 229-5958.

—Richard Cherneff

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NEWS FROM SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

New summer theatre camp. The Drama department is planning a six-week summer theatre camp for students in grades 3-8. The program, called "Encore!!!," aims to keep children busy with exciting activity July 3 to Aug. 13. Cost for the session is \$400 (the first payment was due May 1), with a maximum enrollment of 75.

The first three weeks will focus on basic acting skills, dance/movement, improvisation, voice, monologues, theatre games, and technical theatre skills such as set design, set construction, set painting, prop making, and sound and light design. Those classes will be split into three age groups: grades 3 and 4, grades 5 and 6 and grades 7 and 8. The second three weeks everyone will work together in intensive rehearsing for the final event, three performances on the weekend of Aug. 11 of "The Music Man Jr."

For more information, contact Robert Law, Community Relations/Performing Arts Coordinator at 229-8252.

National Merit commendations. Glenn Devoti, Principal of Mount Everett Regional School, has announced that seniors Alice Maggio of South Egremont and Abigail Reardon of Ashley Falls have been named "Commended Students" in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program. Nationwide, some 34,000 students received the honor, won by placing

among the top 5 percent on the 2004 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).

Honor society inductees. The Aurigan Chapter of the National Honor Society at Mount Everett Regional School inducted six new members into the Society at a ceremony on April 6: Isabel Castaneda, Alexander Crawford, Danielle Dillon, Kayla Fraser, Madeline Maggio and Arielle VanDeusen. Honor Society inductees must have a grade point average of 88 or better, and they must be outstanding in character, leadership and service. Once elected, they must complete 30 hours of community service yearly. New officers elected for the 2006-2007 school year are Jenna Turner, president, Dinah Mielke, vice president, Emerson Martin, treasurer, Alex Crawford, recording secretary and Danielle Dillon, corresponding secretary. Advisors to the National Honor Society are Janice Storti and Martha Thomson.

Arts program participants. Four Undermountain Elementary theatre students selected by lottery will join 400 other fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-grade students from around Massachusetts in the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Days In The Arts program this summer. Jordan Lome, Victoria Aldam, Trudy Hall and Kelsie Sullivan will get a chance to explore music, visual art, theater, or dance. Students in the program work with professional arts faculty to choose a discipline to study for the week, with afternoons spent at professional arts organizations in the area. They may find themselves at Jacob's Pillow interacting with the resident dance company; at Shakespeare & Company or the Berkshire Theater Festival learning how a play comes together; at the Norman Rockwell Museum or Chesterwood Museum gaining insight into the vision of professional artists; or at Tanglewood meeting BSO musicians and conductors or attending a master class for young musicians from the Tanglewood Music Center or the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. In addition, the daily schedule includes creative writing sessions designed to enhance the understanding of the creative process. The week ends with a presentation that brings all the students and the artistic disciplines together.



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ARBORETUM AT BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL

Starting this year, the environmental science class, made up of juniors and seniors from Mount Everett Regional High School, started creating a campus arboretum. The arboretum will provide the school and the community, now and for generations to come, a place for students to learn about important elements of the environment, and a safe haven for trees of diverse species to live and grow.

The project has been designed so students participate in every aspect of the arboretum's creation and operation. Students have started the initial tree inventory, the development of a long-term management plan, and have undertaken the planting of Dutch elm-resistant American elms on campus.

Support in the community has been remarkable. Among the local and regional organizations working with the program are Sheffield Tree Project, Elm Watch, and Project Native. Local businesses have also been supportive. A number of local tree companies, landscape designers, landscapers, nurseries (Barrett Tree Services, Webster-Ingersoll, Race Mt. Tree Services, Ward's Nursery), and private citizens have offered what amounts to thousands of dollars in free or discounted products or services. Several professionals have offered to help guide the program, including the regional service forester (specializing in urban forestry), and the health forester, who can help design and implement an integrated pest management plan.

In addition to creating and managing the arboretum, the long-term plan calls for reconstructing the current campus greenhouse (it will be linked to the school's established aquaculture program and serve as a space for students to research propagation techniques) and the establishment of a student-run tree nursery. The nursery will create an opportunity for groups of children to care for a tree from 7th grade through their senior year, at which time they will plant the tree in the community, teaching students not just about trees but also to be active stewards of the public space.

Ultimately, The arboretum program is designed to involve all students, from K to 12. Younger students will be responsible for tasks such as watering and mulching, while older students oversee projects including building the tree inventory data base and grant writing. The arboretum is a multi-disciplinary student driven project that enables students to actively invest in their education at Mt. Everett while improving the campus and community.

For more information or to contribute to the program, contact Kristofer Covey, 229-8734 Ext. 207 or email him at kcovey@tek2000.net. Covey is the 7th/8th grade science teacher at the school.
—Khris Covey

ARBORIST WORKSHOP PROGRAM

On March 7, the campus at Mt. Everett Regional School in Sheffield came alive with the sounds of chainsaws, wood chippers, and crashing trees. As part of the school's arboretum project and an innovative workshop program designed and implemented by Mt. Everett teacher Catherine Elliott, a group of middle and high school students spent a morning working with area arboriculture professionals to improve the health of trees. Several large hazard trees were removed, trees big and small received necessary pruning, and piles of mulch were made.

Local tree companies donated their services for the day, as did the operator of a portable sawmill. Students joined with the operator of the mill to turn cut-down trees into rough-sawn lumber that will be used by the school's Building & Structures program.

Other workshops have covered topics such as aviation, in which students learned the basics and take a flight with a licensed pilot, and a construction workshop, where students pick up hammers and build a shed.

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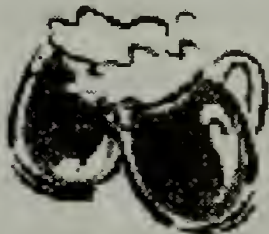
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ASHLEY FALLS MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

The village of Ashley Falls will celebrate Memorial Day with its traditional parade on Mon., May 29, starting at 8am at the village green and marching to the cemetery on Clayton Rd., where the ceremony will take place.

Sponsored by the Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society, this community event includes the participation of the Sheffield Fire Dept., selectmen, Sheffield Whinnies, local Scout troops, and other groups. Bagpiper Eric Goodchild, grandson of Ashley Falls resident Bill Conklin, will lead the march. William Conklin, another grandson, will play taps. Clergy from Trinity United Methodist Church and Greenwoods Community Church will participate. John-Arthur and Trudy Miller will be the featured singers, and Janet Stanton will preside as master of ceremonies. Sam Watkins, a Vietnam veteran and part-time resident of Ashley Falls, will be the speaker. Jack O'Connell, returned from military duty in Iraq, will also take part in the ceremony.

All members of the military, past

and present, are encouraged to be a part of the parade (uniforms not required). A vehicle can be made available for veterans unable to march.

Youngsters are encouraged to decorate their bikes and ride them in the parade. Owners of vintage cars are also invited to participate.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the parade will return to the grounds of the Trinity United Methodist Church parish hall, where refreshments will be served.

In the event of rain, the parade itself

The Sheffield Memorial Day parade will start at 11am at the Police Station, Route 7 and Berkshire School Rd., with ceremonies in the center of Sheffield at the war memorials and Barnard Park.

will be canceled and the ceremony will take place in the Methodist Church.

Those who would like to volunteer, march, or contribute refreshments are asked to call Kathie Ness at 229-3368 or Pam Bloodworth at 229-3530.

—Kathie Ness

SHEFFIELD MILESTONES: Gertrude LeGeyt

Gertude LeGeyt, born in Sheffield and a lifelong resident, died March 9 at the age of 94 at the family's Tobey Hill Farm on LeGeyt Rd. Up to a few years ago, she had helped to manage the farm. Many of her friends remember that she was the night shift at the Geer Hospital in Canaan, for years the only nurse on duty all night. During the day she ran the farm with her husband, her particular job being to tend the calves, with special attention to their pedigrees.

In her spare time, she was an active member of four Granges (including Sheffield's), the Trinity United Methodist Church, the Historical Society Quilting Group and an original member of the Council on Aging Board of Directors. She attended movies at the Senior Center weekly and its luncheons up to the last year. She represented Sheffield at its best, an exemplary, contributing resident in the town's continuing history.

—Rae Eastman

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR OLD PARISH

On June 10 at 8pm, the Wiyos, a trio playing old-timey music they describe as "vaudevillian ragtime blues, early swing, jugband and old time country," will perform at Old Parish Church on the Green. The concert will raise funds for the restoration of the historic meeting house.

The Brooklyn-based trio—Joseph Dejarnette, Michael Farkas, and Parrish Ellis—sing and accompany themselves on washboard/harmonica/kazoo, guitar, and upright bass. Named after one of New York City's toughest old-time street gangs, the group draws on music from the Blue Ridge Mountains and New York City, mixing the more urbane sounds of Django Reinhardt, the Gershwin brothers and Fats Waller with the unrefined country fervor of Gary Davis, Doc Watson and Skip James. They have two CDs out and have played venues across the U.S. and in Europe to rave reviews.



The Brooklyn-based Trio, the Wiyos, to perform June 10 at 8pm.

Tickets are \$18 (\$10 for students). They're available from church members, at the church office and at the Neighborgoods store on the green.



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NEWS FROM BERKSHIRE SCHOOL

Students help at Undermountain

Kids for Kids, a mentoring program run by a group of Berkshire School students, goes to Undermountain Elementary every Thursday afternoon to help better themselves and the elementary school kids. The Berkshire School students help with homework, life skills, and play games with the students.

Marjorie Crowley, a Berkshire senior student from Greenwich, CT, and president of the aptly named Kids for Kids, has participated in the program for the past three years. She is now in her senior year at Berkshire and is the president of the club.

"The Undermountain Elementary kids look to us as role models and seem to really enjoy the time we spend with them," says Crowley.

The program currently includes over 60 students from Berkshire, Mount Everett, and Undermountain Elementary. Since its inception four years ago, the number of Berkshire students participating in the program has



Kids for Kids volunteer Lauren Dear, a freshman from Miami, with her buddy Zach.

more than doubled. The increase is mostly attributed to Crowley's immense enthusiasm in the club and in the club's efforts.

"Everyone seems to have so much en-

thusiasm and passion for what they do every Thursday," she says. "I love hanging out with really cool people, and that's what we get to do every Thursday at Kids for Kids."

This article was written by Berkshire School seniors Jacqui Cloud of Winsted, CT, and Jeff Wexler of Greenwood Village, CO.

Something boiling at Berkshire School

A group calling itself the Berkshire School Maple Syrup Corporation, headed by Berkshire School science teacher Mil Dalton, made 50 gallons of syrup this spring. The program is student-run and not for profit. Instead, each student gets one eight-ounce bottle for every hour he or she works.

The syrup-making mostly takes place during the school's spring break, which was the better part of March. The club sells syrup to students before Christmas to raise money, raising more than \$500 last year. The syrup also goes

to alumni who give money to the school. "The more they give the more they get" says Harry Aaron, a senior at the school and president of the program, who lives in Great Barrington.

This spring the students tapped over 150 trees, with a total of over 400 taps. Each work day starts in the early morning and ends in the late evening. The sugarhouse named after longtime



A sign on the Arthur C. Chase Sugar House at Berkshire School

Sheffield resident and Berkshire School teacher Arthur C. Chase, is a two-room building, with one room devoted to an evaporator that can handle up to 200 gallons of sap per hour. It takes about an hour and a half to make one gallon of syrup.

The front room has a newly installed wood stove, which keeps the building nice and warm. The group meets twice a month and individuals can meet anytime they want. After Harry Aaron graduates in June, Joe Cohen '08, from Darien, CT, will be president of the corporation.

This article was written by Berkshire School seniors Chris Drake of Sewickley, PA; Kat Mannix of Philadelphia; and Spencer Noyes of Oneida, NY.

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CHURCH NEWS

Christ Church Episcopal
"Soul" food and drink on Memorial Day. As our town's Memorial Day Parade makes its way down Main St. on Mon., May 29, Christ Church Episcopal will be welcoming all those honoring the men and women who have fought for our country and those who gave their life for our freedom. The church will be open for prayer throughout the morning. Come in and see the beautiful stained glass windows and the church that was dedicated in 1911.

Members of the church will be giving away free bottles of cold water during the parade. Following the ceremony at the cemetery there will be free hotdogs, potato chips and iced tea on the front lawn of the church, while they last. Please join us. For information, call the church at 229-8811.

Sheffield Food Program

Two months ago we asked for help because of emptying shelves. You came through with an overflowing barrel at the Berkshire Bank, increased giving in the churches, and from the schools. The first delight was a call from Sue Krom of the New Marlboro Girl Scouts, who appeared one afternoon with 32 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and bags of food the girls bought with the profits from their cookie sales. Then the SADD chapter from Mt. Everett called. They had held a competition in grades 7-12 that yielded massive boxes of food to replenish our supplies. Berkshire School students and staff helped us again this year by collecting on campus and then giving us several hours of their time to help us sort and clean and reorganize.

And these are just the special donations. Every week local citizens drop off donations to the Berkshire Bank barrel. Whole families are involved in our operations. Missy Joyce of Berkshire Bank initiated this service that consistently helps us; Laurie Briggs brings over the New Marlboro collection; and Phyllis Joyce is a team captain at the Food Program. Thank you all.

BUY LOCAL!

Our advertisers are local businesses. Let them know you read about them in the Sheffield Times.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational)

355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442.

Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided; Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)

1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Pastor Betty LeGeyt

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist)

North Street (413) 528-4197

Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

270 State Road (413) 528-6378

Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service; Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study.

Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Trinity Lutheran

198 Main Street

(413) 528-1330. Sunday: 9am Sunday Worship. Rev. Steve Edmiston

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

Meet at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main Street (413) 528-4850;

home (413) 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church (Episcopal)

180 Main Street (413) 229-8811

Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder.

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

Rte 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Faith Baptist

640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400 Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am

Worship Service; 6pm Bible Study; Wednesday: 7pm Mid-week Service; Pastor L.V. Morris.

Old Parish (Congregational)

125 Main Street (413) 229-8173 Sunday: 10am Worship. Interim Pastor: Frances Ruthven; Sunday School, 10am

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)

Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028; Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)

1970 N. Main Street, www.sheffieldchapel.org, (413) 528-2911. www.sheffieldchapel.org.

10:45am Sunday Morning Worship. 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Tuesdays: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Interim Pastor: George Karl, Jr.



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Friday	10-8
Saturday	10-5
Sunday	2-5
Monday	Closed

RECOMMENDED READING

Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq

by Michael R. Gordon and General Bernard E. Trainor (Pantheon Books 2006).

This is the most definitive chronicle to date of our military's invasion and occupation of Iraq, a well-written history of what is probably the most important armed conflict – one that has not yet ended -- since the end of the Cold War. It covers the Pentagon's and our armed forces' preparations for and execution of the successful invasion of Iraq and its aftermath, the botched and bloody occupation of the country.

Michael Gordon is the chief military correspondent for The New York Times. He was embedded with various elements of the US invasion force. Bernard Trainor, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant general, is a former military correspondent for the Times and currently a military analyst for NBC. The co-authors have excellent contacts in the Pentagon and the armed forces and were given extensive access to senior field commanders as well as a host of other ranks, still-secret intelligence documents and internal after-action reports of the fighting.

Some of the most interesting chapters describe the fighting during the invasion. On the American side, a series of fast-moving, long-range mechanized pushes towards important objectives were punctuated by numerous small but deadly skirmishes involving remarkably few of our troops. Other chapters describe the new equipment and technologies used by our forces, from remote-controlled intelligence-gathering drones to front-line commanders communicating by email on laptops.

The book made the news for its criticism of senior leaders such as the two commanding generals, Richard Myers and Tommy Franks, and top officials at the Pentagon, especially Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The latter was clearly the single-most important and persuasive proponent of the invasion—he recommended attacking Iraq before 9/11. One of his principal objectives was very personal: his desire to show off the overwhelming superiority of the US military,

which he is in the process of “transforming” into a leaner and meaner force. Another was to provide a graphic demonstration to other would-be foes such as Iran, Syria and North Korea of the possible consequences of defying the US by supporting terrorists or developing nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

He certainly achieved his first objective. As he had predicted, the invasion was a “walkover.” It took only six weeks for the US to reach and occupy Baghdad at a cost of less than 100 US personnel dead. There were some problems, including several “friendly fire” incidents (perhaps a quarter of the US deaths were attributable to US forces), extensive “collateral damage” (Iraqi civilian deaths) and a critical failure to mop up Saddam's irregular fighters left behind on the road to the capital. But, on the whole, the invasion went extremely well.

However, he seems to have failed miserably in seeking to deter other “evildoers” from defying the United States in the future. Indeed, by failing to anticipate and plan for the insurgency that started up several weeks before the toppling of Saddam Hussein, he has provided yet another of the long list of historical examples that even the most powerful conventional armed forces are vulnerable to guerilla warfare tactics.

NEW STAIRWELL AND ACCESS

At long last, the formerly unused stairwell to the south of the library entrance is open to the public. Patrons may now walk between the basement and main and top floors without having to use the elevator. And the large conference room in the basement is accessible directly from the outside through the door behind the book drop so that people using the room do not have to enter through the lobby. This new entrance will be kept locked except at times when events are scheduled to take place in the program room.

At the same time, a new banister has been installed in the stairwell just to the north of the library entrance, which will improve safety, and new, automatic, disabled person-friendly doors are in the process of being installed at the

One of the great mysteries of the Iraq War is how such an obviously brilliant and experienced man as Rumsfeld could have pushed for the attack without having planned for possible guerilla warfare, even actively suppressing such planning. As the authors of Cobra II and many other observers have pointed out, many people (both inside and outside the military) warned of the critical importance of preparing for a counterinsurgency.

Perhaps Rumsfeld could not admit the possibility of guerilla warfare because this was the one thing his “transformed” military was not designed to handle. Or perhaps he actually believed Ahmed Chalabi and other exiles' predictions that our troops would be welcomed with open arms by grateful, peace-loving and flower-throwing Iraqis.

The consequences of our bungling the occupation of Iraq are likely to haunt us for a long time. As the prime mover behind the invasion of Iraq, Donald Rumsfeld is most to blame. Cobra II details how and why. It makes for a sobering but worthwhile read.

—Peter Rowntree

main library entrance. They will bring the library into compliance with state and federal regulations and will make the library a more welcoming and usable place for the disabled.

Library director Nancy Hahn thanks Sheffield contractor Tim Hewins for the fine job he did on the stairwells. She is delighted with the result. “This is a major improvement that will make the library much more accessible and convenient for patrons and for people coming to programs,” she said.

The Sheffield Times is an inexpensive way to reach Sheffield customers. Contact Tara White at 229-7754 for information on how to advertise.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The library has developed a new and exciting community service, thanks to children's librarian June Wolfe. On two recent teacher workdays, when the public school children were dismissed before noon, the library opened its doors and welcomed kindergarten through sixth grades for half-day programs. Terry Palfino of the Undermountain Elementary Administration office helped library staff coordinate permission slips and busses. The bus company was kind enough to add the library to its regular schedule on two different busses. Parents sent lunches and the library provided snacks.

The first event was held on Jan. 26. Volunteers from 4-H and the honor society helped supervise 42 children while they played in the snow, made recycled paper and enjoyed the children's reading room. And on April 6, library trustee chair Betty LeGeyt, June Wolfe and community volunteer Olympia Casivant supervised 18 children while they played outdoors, made homemade sidewalk chalk and read in the gazebo.

Parents expressed their appreciation for the program and asked that it be continued next year. Volunteers are needed!

Library Camp will return this summer, the week of July 17-July 21. Davis Bates will kick off the week with a fun storytelling event on July 17 at 12:30pm. Camp will include project time, reading time and outdoor time. Space is limited so please sign up your child early. Again, volunteers are needed!

RECORD INCREASE IN BOOK CIRCULATION

The number of books and other library materials circulated by the Bushnell-Sage Library has increased significantly over the past 15 months. Circulation figures for winter 2006 months matched the busy summer months of 2005. While no statistics are available as to the number of people using the library, the circulation figures seem to be matched by an increase in visitors.

According to library director Nancy Hahn, the increases are attributable to an ever-improving collection of materials, an increasing number of patrons from other communities, and more community outreach in programming, particularly for children. The first program for public school children with only a half day of school (this page) resulted in the issuance of 16 new family library cards. "One of my goals is to make the library and Sheffield a destination point and cultural haven for the tri-state corner," said Nancy.

ABOLISHING FINES A SUCCESS

Confounding skeptics, who thought abolishing fines for overdue books would lead to both longer delays in returns and loss of revenue, the new system, under which patrons are encouraged to make voluntary contributions in lieu of fines, has resulted in increased revenue. And there has been no noticeable effect on the time when past due materials are returned. Among the advantages of the new system is that it is easy for the staff to smile and calmly say, "Oh my, that book certainly was overdue"!

BOOKS CIRCULATED PER MONTH

2005	
January	3,943
February	4,326
March	4,974
April	4,174
May	3,512
June	3,758
July	5,227
August	5,948
September	4,809
October	5,357
November	4,720
December	4,593
2006	
January	5,324
February	5,545
March	6,524

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 20 Todd Mack booktalk: Princess Penelope Takes Charge, 2pm

May 23 Bookmobile

May 26-28 Book sale on Memorial Day Weekend: 5-8pm on Fri., 10am-5pm on Sat., 12-3pm on Sun.

June 3 Dennis Watlington booktalk: Chasing America, 2 pm

June 10 Jeff Title and Lisa Cohen booktalk: Letting Go of Grudges: Forgiveness Is Good For Your Health, 2pm

June 24 Garden dedication party



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN: FROM THE MEETING MINUTES

1/17—Town Administrator Bob Weitz read a proposal from the Sheffield Post Home Inc. for locating the Senior Center on Legion property. The Selectmen indicated support but asked Weitz to verify that the minimum half acre could be divided out. They voted to put proposal on the Town Meeting Warrant.

Terry Shea, technology director at Berkshire School, stated that he is considering purchasing Shea's Pine Tree to open a restaurant with liquor and entertainment (local musicians and artists) licenses. The Board advised Shea to discuss zoning issues with the building inspector and then present a proposal to the Board.

After meeting with Robert Pasqualina, the board appointed him as Planning Board Alternate. The board ratified the Board of Health's decision to appoint Mark Pruhenski as the Board of Health Inspector. Currently Pruhenski works as Health Inspector in Great Barrington four days a week. It voted to make "Sheffield Business Park" the official name for the road located at the Sheffield Business Park.

Selectman Julie Hannum reported on the Massachusetts Municipal Association conference. She noted that the Bushnell-Sage Library is looking for a letter of support from the Selectmen for a grant application.

2/6—The board received a letter from the Planning Board saying it will ask voters at Town Meeting to fix compensation for its members at \$100 for each elected official (\$500 total) to provide recognition and additional incentive for serving.

After considering a letter from the Town of Kingston, the board decided to send State Representative Smitty Pignatelli and Senator Andrea Nuciforo a letter asking for support of the Governor's petition to remove the current cap on the lottery proceeds given to the town.

A one-day wine and beer permit was permitted for Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce for its March 11, 2006 fund-raiser at Berkshire

School.

Board of Library Trustee member Peter Rowntree showed the Board of Selectmen a proposed replacement sign for the Bushnell-Sage Library. Selectman Hannum commented that while it is handsome, she thinks it's a good practice for towns to have signs consistent in shape and color to provide recognition of town buildings.

Police Chief McGarry spoke in support of the Board endorsing National Incident Management System, required for towns to receive FY07 Federal Preparedness funds, including grant funding from the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security & the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services. The system sets up a nationwide template to enable different levels of government, as well as private sector and nongovernmental organizations, to work together to prepare, respond to, and recover from a disaster. The Board voted to adopt the system's principles and policies.

A curb cut permit for Timothy Voothis on property located at Old Joe Road was approved, contingent on approval of the Police Chief.

Selectman Hannum reported on several meetings she attended:

- the Chamber of Commerce Pittfield Business Development State Incentives Workshop;

- the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting at Options Institute discussing the Berkshire Economic Development Commission;

- the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting. MPO is a new subcommittee of Berkshire County Regional Planning Agency whose purpose is to decide where federal moneys are spent on various transportation improvement projects. The completion of the Village Green remains on the list. Selectman Macy pointed out that with the formation of MPO, individual towns no longer have their own representative to Berkshire County Regional Planning's Transportation Subcommittee. Hannum noted that it's important for the Board of Selectmen to maintain a dialogue with the representatives, who must

now think in terms of the needs of the county rather than merely advocating for their own specific town.

Selectman Hannum reported she received a telephone call from Margaret Larkin of West Rd. concerning a dangerous blind corner where erosion of a bank is causing the road to narrow into one lane. The Board will refer the matter to the Town Administrator and Highway Dept.

2/21—Jenny and Hillary Russell of 98 Berkshire School Rd. approached the board for help concerning recent flooding of their basement. Mrs. Russell stated that it was the first time in 33 years that they experienced a wet cellar, and they had 1 foot of water. The Russells believe that removal of two huge silver maples from their property in conjunction with the Berkshire School Rd. construction project caused the flooding. She indicated that although they attended and reviewed plans for construction of the road at Mass Highway Department's public hearing at Town Hall, only one of the silver maple



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trees was slated to be cut down according to the plans they reviewed, and it was not until the day before construction, when Mrs. Russell inquired of Dave Smith of Maxymillian, that she found that both trees were coming down. They stated that according to their research, silver maples absorb enormous amounts of water—approximately 450 gallons per day.

Mrs. Russell reported that Mass Highway Project Engineer Joe Mastroianni spent an hour looking in her cellar and agreed that removal of both trees did precipitate water, and he agreed to ask his boss at District 1 to provide 30 cubic yards of three-quarters-inch stone to fill up their basement above the level of water. However, she was later informed that Mass. Highway Dept. would not provide the material. Mastroianni suggested that she approach the town. Mr. and Mrs. Russell stated that because they had not been informed about the loss of both trees in advance, they did not receive information needed to take proper action.

Several questions were raised in the ensuing discussion, including whether the town should talk to Mass Highway, what has happened with neighbors, whether there was a shift in the water table or runoff from the roadway, the nature of the construction of the Russell's basement and whether stone would really help or could it cause the walls to collapse. The Board will take this matter under advisement and will place it on the agenda in approximately one month.

A curb cut permit was approved for Spark Management LLC for a new driveway at 48 Business Park, pending the approval of the Highway Superintendent and Police Chief.

Selectman Hannum updated the Board on the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, and stated that she welcomes feedback concerning priorities, and focus.

Televised Board of Selectmen's meetings can also be seen on CTSB Cable Channel 16. Check schedule for times. Not all meetings are televised.

The public is welcome at all Town meetings. The Board of Selectmen meet the first and third Monday of the month (or the next day, if that Monday is a holiday).

PLANNING BOARD

During the months of March and April, the Planning Board accomplished the following:

It accepted the special permit application of Susan and Robert Butler seeking an extension of the Alternate Lot Dimension special permit they were granted in 2004. The public hearing will be at 8:30pm on Tues., May 16.

The board completed its deliberations on the special permit application of CMR, LLC (City Moves) to operate and moving a storage business and office. If no appeal is made during the mandatory 20-day appeal period, the permit will be granted.

The board finished its review of current fee structures for subdividing land and adopted new fees, including an escrow account, that more accurately reflects the town's costs associated with subdivision plans.

The board held four public hearings on the zoning by-law articles it

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or
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placed on the Town Warrant and developed voter information packets for these proposed Articles, all of which passed at the Town Meeting. It continued work on the Master Plan summary of recommendations, which will be distributed this summer.

The board also hired Nadia Mileron as board secretary.

Planning Board meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the first-floor conference room, Town Hall. All meetings are posted and open to the public. All are welcomed.

—Rene Wood, Chair

PLANNING BOARD GRANT UPDATE

Three committees continued their work on tasks funded by a Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) and hired consultants are providing assistance.

The Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee and its two subcommittees continue to make progress. They will be updating the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board in May. (See the cover story for more.)

The Zoning By-Law Revision Subcommittee met weekly to review and update the town's current zoning by-laws. The work has focused on developing a table of use regulations to provide an easy-to-use and-understand grid of which land uses are permitted by right or through special permit in each of the town's districts. (Allowable uses are currently found in Articles 4, "Use Regulations"). The table will update current use regulations to be consistent with federal and state law. Doc Nourse and David West, both of whom were on the committee that drafted the current by-laws, have been invaluable in explaining that committee's intent and purposes for some of the use wording and subtleties. The subcommittee has also been working to clarify definitions. The work

has proved to be more time-consuming than originally thought and as a result was not ready for inclusion on this year's Town Warrant.

The Sheffield Wellhead Protection Committee completed its work of reviewing and updating current town water supply protection district by-laws. They proposed to replace the current language in its entirety with Article 14, "Water Supply Protection District," the language of which complies with the state Dept. of Environmental Protection language and is consistent with current water protection best-management practices. The Planning Board accepted their proposed by-law and endorsed it as a Town Warrant article. The committee presented the information at a public hearing and participated in the article's presentation to voters at Town Meeting where the article passed. Several committee members will attend the public hearing on Great Barrington's proposed water by-law, which will affect Sheffield public water, and plan to meet with Egremont town officials regarding their water by-laws. All committee members extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to Tom Matuszko of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for his assistance.

—R.W.

Village Green

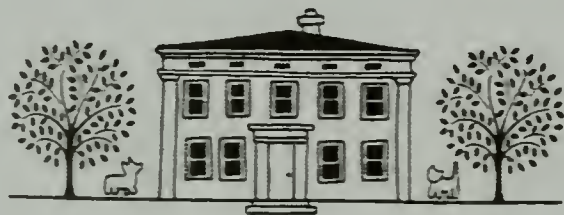
BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

Sheffield residents can take one load (up to pickup truck size) of furniture, mattresses, rugs, old doors, small bits and pieces left over from a do-it-yourself project and other bulky waste to the Sheffield Transfer Station Fri., May 19, 2-4pm; Sat, May 20, 8am-4pm; and Sun, May 21, 8am-12pm. A bulky waste coupon is required (one coupon per household). Coupons may be obtained at the Sheffield Tax Collector's office, or requested by mail if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope, including your license plate number to the Treasurer/Collector's Office, P.O. Box 367, Sheffield, MA 01257.

Not accepted: tires, cathode ray tubes (TVs, computer monitors), demolition debris (sheet rock, fiberglass, etc.), propane tanks, car batteries, toxic materials (pesticides, chemicals, oil, etc.), and items which can normally fit in the compactor. No refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or dehumidifiers. (Other "white goods" and recyclable metals can be put in the metals container next to compactor.) For more information, contact David Steindler at 229-2628 or the Sheffield Town Hall at 229-2335.

Transfer Station Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays: 1pm-4pm; Saturdays: 8am-4pm
Sundays: 8:30am-2pm



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APPLICANTS WANTED

The Conservation Commission is looking for members.
Contact Town Hall at 229-2335 if you are interested.

CO MONITORS NOW REQUIRED.

As of March 31, carbon monoxide alarms are required in all residences that have fossil-fuel-burning equipment or enclosed parking areas-potential sources of the deadly gas. They are required on every level of the home, and within 10 feet of bedroom doors. Fire departments must inspect smoke and CO alarms when homes are sold or transferred. "The Sheffield Fire Dept. stands ready to assist homeowners in meeting the new requirements," says Chief Rick Boardman. You can call the department at 229-7033.

SHEFFIELD FIRE DEPT. FIRE LOG

—Chief Rick Boardman

February

- 18 Chimney fire. Alarm time 9:51am. In service 10:26am.
- 18 Smell of gas. Alarm time 6:25pm. In service 6:48pm.
- 19 Mutual aid to Canaan Fire Co. Alarm time 9:55pm. In service 3:18am.
- 27 Alarm at Mt. Everett High School. Alarm time 8:10am. In service 8:36am.

March

- 1 Brush fire. Alarm time 11:06am. In service 11:52am.
- 14 Mattress fire. Alarm time 9:50pm. In service 11:10pm.
- 18 Brush fire. Alarm time 12:44pm. In service 2:00pm.
- 21 Mutual aid to Egremont Fire Dept. Alarm time 10:40am. In service 11:02am.
- 21 Furnace blowback. Alarm time 5:47pm. In service 6:11pm.
- 22 Alarm at Option Institute. Alarm time 9:50pm. In service 10:35pm.
- 27 Lifting assistance. Alarm time 12:30pm. In service 12:52pm.
- 27 Mutual aid to Canaan Fire Co. Alarm time 4:10pm. In service 10:00pm.
- 30 Mutual aid to Great Barrington Fire Dept. Alarm time 6:00pm. In service 9:45pm.
- 31 Mutual aid to Great Barrington Fire Dept. Alarm time 6:00am. In service 10:05am.
- 31 Mutual aid to Alford Fire Dept. Alarm time 12:42pm. In service 4:48pm.

April

- 4 False alarm at Berkshire School. Alarm time 12:01am. In service 12:26am.
- 6 Car accident. Alarm time 11:40pm. In service 12:36am.
- 11 Mutual aid to Great Barrington Fire Dept. Alarm time 5:15am. In service 7:45am.
- 12 Mutual aid to Winsted Fire Dept. Alarm time 3:20pm. In service 7:46pm.
- 15 Illegal burn. Alarm time 7:18pm. In service 7:46pm.



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TOWN CLERK

Sporting licenses. Hunting/Fishing licenses and stamps are available during regular business hours. Antlerless deer (or doe) permit applications need to be submitted by July 16.

Dog licenses. The licenses for 2006 are available. If you live in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year or you have a dog six months of age or older, that dog must be licensed. The cost is \$4 for a spayed/neutered dog, \$10 for intact dogs. You can get a license by mail with proof of rabies shots, a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check payable to the Town of Sheffield. Mail to the Town Clerk's Office, PO Box 175, Sheffield, MA 01257.

Census update. A thank you to all residents who complied and returned their census forms. We appreciate your doing your part.

Voter registration. The Town Clerk's office is open 9am-4pm weekdays for voter registration. I encourage college students to look into applying for absentee ballot applications before going away to school. If you have questions pertaining to this process, please call the Town Clerk's office at 229-8752 during regular business hours.

There will be a State Primary on Tues., Sept. 19, and the deadline to register to vote is Aug. 30. The State Election will be on Tues., Nov. 7, with a registration deadline of Oct. 18.

—Felecie Joyce, Town Clerk

RECYCLING

Sheffield residents can take unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners and turpentine, or used motor oil to the Great Barrington Recycling Center, Rt. 7 across from Monument Mountain High School, on Sat., June 10, 9-11:30am. Latex paint will not be accepted at this event. Empty or dried up cans of latex paint can be disposed of with the regular trash. Empty cans of oil-based paint, stains and solvents can be disposed of with the regular trash as well. Please pre-register with Center for Ecological Technology by calling 800-238-1221 or 445-4556, ext. 17 or 25.

TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

Assessors	229-7001
Board of Selectmen	229-2335
Council on Aging	229-7022
Building Inspector	229-7006
Fire Dept.	
non-emergency	229-7033
Highway Dept.	229-7030
Library	229-7004
Police Dept.	
non-emergency	229-8522
Tax Collector	229-7008
Town Administrator	229-7000
Town Clerk	229-8752

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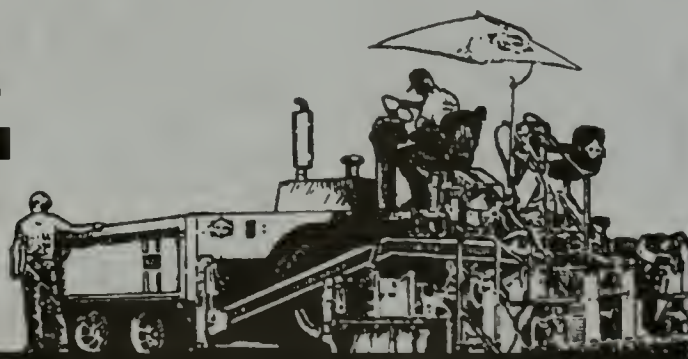
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Barrington Stage Company moves on

The Barrington Stage Company, under the leadership of Artistic Director Julianne Boyd, moved in April from its original home in Sheffield to its new home on Union Street in Pittsfield. After renovations are completed, its new home—the Berkshire Music Hall, a vintage 1912 vaudeville house—will feature a fully accessible 300-seat orchestra, 200-seat mezzanine, and state-of-the-art lighting, sound, and rigging equipment. Renovations, which began last fall, are behind schedule, and the theater opening, originally planned for early summer, now won't happen until August.

The company's administrative offices will be housed in the historic 1875 Octagon House located next to the theatre. The company's 2006 inaugural season will extend from May through October.

"We will miss Sheffield," Boyd told the *Sheffield Times*. "It's our home; it's where we started. We wanted to stay in South County, but we also wanted to do more year-round theater, so that, for example, if we had a hit, we could extend its run, instead of being limited to school times."

Co-founded by Ms. Boyd in 1995, BSC is committed to presenting new productions of undiscovered musicals and

plays, in addition to developing new works for the American theatre. In addition, the company has a tradition of community outreach. "We are still offering our educational programs, like the drama classes for 8-17-year-olds in July in Great Barrington," Boyd tells us. "And we'll continue our playwright mentoring project during the school year."

Boyd considers the BSC to be a resource for all of Berkshire County, since many of its patrons come from Lenox, Lee, Becket, and other areas in the county as well as from Sheffield. "We'll still serve our traditional audience," she says. "We are thrilled to have a permanent home. This will allow us to present an expanded season as well as produce more workshops and developmental productions throughout the year. And as soon as we get organized," she adds, "we'll be looking for an inexpensive place to do shows in South County." The company is also looking forward to doing matinee performances this summer.

BSC's 2006 season will kick off with a production of Mark St. Germain's, "The Collyer Brothers at Home" from May 17 through 28 at the Berkshire Athenaeum on Wendell Ave. The MainStage summer season will begin with William Dumas's and Galt MacDermot's heart-warming salute to the American dream in "The Human Comedy," directed by Julianne Boyd. It will run from June 21 through July 15 at the Koussevitzky Arts Center at Berkshire Community College.

Several other productions will follow, extending through the fall.

—Ellen Weiss

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New coaching company in Ashley Falls

Lawrence and Margo Davis-Hollander have formed a new coaching company, Dynamic Change, offering ontological coaching for individuals and businesses, and classes in well being, leadership and, communication. In ontological coaching, the coach observes a person's way of being in the world and encourages him or her to discover how to shift to a more functional, positive, and productive way of being.

Lawrence was former director and founder of the Eastern Native Seed Conservancy, an organization dedicated to preserving rare food plants. He is a certified mediator and a facilitator. Margo was a graphic artist for many years, until pausing eight years ago to raise a family. The basis of the work of Dynamic Change has been in the development stages for years based on the Davis-Hollanders' personal lives and careers.

In addition to coaching, Dynamic Change will be offering workshops on subjects such as building long-term relationships, along with leadership and communication training for businesses and organizations. Dynamic Change is located at 729 Ashley Falls Rd. can be reached at 413-229-8316 or dynamicchange@aol.com. Currently the Davis-Hollanders are offering sample sessions for businesses or individuals.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS AND EVENTS

Exhibit at the Old Stone Store: Schoolwork, Yesteryear and Today. The first schools in Sheffield were built in the 1740s, and what is now Silk's Variety was once the Sheffield Academy, opened in 1839 and closed in 1870, when the building was moved from its original site on the Plain to its present location. There students could expect to study Latin, Greek, English, French, elocution, natural science, mathematics, surveying, and geography. Nowadays, Sheffield students in the 7th and 8th grades at Undermountain Elementary School create individual projects on a wide array of topics. Along with memorabilia from Sheffield's schools of yore, they'll be on display Sat., May 6, through Sun., May 28. The opening reception will be 10am to noon on Sat., May 6. Hours are Saturdays from 10 to 2, Sundays from 11 to 3, and by appointment. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Monthly meeting: Love in the young USA. Timothy Kenslea, Ph.D., will speak on "The Sedgwicks in Love: Courtship, Engagement, and Marriage in the Early Republic" on May 12. A local historical figure, Theodore Sedgwick, plays an important role in a few of the early chapters of his recently published book, "The Sedgwicks in Love," published by the University Press of New England. The book explores how things were changing in the way men and women related to each other in the generation born just after the American Revolution. Theodore lived and practiced law in Sheffield from 1768 to 1785, before moving to Stockbridge. He later became Speaker of the House and a justice on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. He is the father of the Sedgwick children whose romantic lives are detailed by Kenslea.

Kenslea is a graduate of Yale University and holds masters and doctoral degrees from Boston College. He is a Needham resident and a history teacher at Norwell High School as well as an editor of high school and college textbooks. Friday, May 12, 7:30pm. Dewey Memorial Hall.

Special event: Native American Heritage Day. Enjoy a spring day while getting to know the families who lived in our area during the early days of white settlement. A daylong series of activities on May 20 will highlight the interaction of Native Americans and white settlers at the Dan Raymond House, where an exhibit, "Early Inhabitants of Sheffield," will open on the second floor. Hands-on activities for youngsters, demonstrations, and talks will feature Native American "re-enactors." Jennifer Lee will portray the life of a 1750-era Algonkian woman in an 18-foot-diameter Eastern wigwam equipped with the accoutrements of daily life. Those who come first thing in the morning can help set up the wigwam. Gail White and Jeff Usher will portray Lenni Lenape Indians from the French and Indian War period. Their program will include a cooking demonstration, beadwork, games for young and old to play, corn to grind, and a deer hide for children to try on. Representing the first European settlers will be Dennis Picard, Director of Storrowton and past Sheffield Historical Society Director. Sat., May 20, 11am-4pm, on the Society grounds.

Annual Meeting. Friday, June 9, 7:30pm. Dewey Memorial Hall. Program to be announced.

Art show at the Stone Store. "Five Artists," a show featuring new and recent artwork by Joe Baker, Hans Heuberger, David McCandless, Lois Ryder, and Lois Van Cleef, will be on display from June 16 to July 2. Monterey painter Joe Baker is a landscape

painter who works primarily outdoors, sometimes later working on the material in his studio. His oils and pastels include subjects from Wyoming, Montana and Arizona as well as the Adirondacks and the Berkshires. Hans Heuberger, a Great Barrington resident, is a master of powerful composition, as seen in his woodblock prints, scratchboards and watercolors. Pastelist David McCandless, another Great Barrington resident, is drawn to landscape and portrait subjects primarily, though any aspect of Berkshire life is likely to inspire his creativity. Monterey resident Lois Ryder has achieved national success with her scratchboard artwork's acceptance into recent Art for the Parks and Academic Artists Association shows. Lois Van Cleef, painter and teacher from Ashley Falls, is known for her vibrant pastels and watercolors.

Save the date: Annual Pigge Roast and Craft Faire. Sat., Aug. 26, 10-6, at the American Legion Hall on Rt. 7.

These programs and the exhibition are made possible, in part, by support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Sheffield Historical Society is located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield. The Old Stone Store is also located on Route 7, on the Green in Sheffield. Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available by appointment during the winter and Thursday through Saturday until Memorial Day. The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday and Friday, 1:30-4pm and by appointment. On May 27, the Dan Raymond House resumes its summer hours. Guided tours are offered Thursdays through Saturdays, from 11am-4pm. Admission fee. For more information, contact Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, 413-229-2694 or email shs@sheffieldhistory.org.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION & TAG SALE

The Sheffield Historical Society is repeating its hugely successful Silent Auction & Tag Sale. After the fun and finance of 2004's event, co-chairs Rene Wood and Jim Miller have announced a second such sale this July. Save the date—July 8. Donations of fine quality items are needed for the auction and saleable merchandise for the tag sale. Call Rene Wood (229-2875) or Jim Miller (229-8668) to arrange for pickup and storage or drop-off.

The sale will be held at the Sheffield Legion on Route 7 (corner of Cook Rd.), 9am-3pm, with early buying 7:30-9am.

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KIWANIS NEWS

Little League. The annual Kiwanis Little League season kicked off with the Pre-Season Tournament at French Park in Egremont on April 22-23. Fans may root for their favorite teams at games being played at the Sheffield Town Park each Monday and Thursday during May and June. Other venues are available from the coaches' schedule. The Kiwanis refreshment stand will be in operation for any of the double-header events in Sheffield. The 2006 baseball season for Little Leaguers will end with the All-Star game at French Park on Sun., June 25.

Tribute to Bartholomew. Club members paid a solemn remembrance visit to Dana Bartholomew's grave site at his property on Undermountain Rd. on May 2. This date was the anniversary of Dana's induction into Kiwanis over 35 years ago. A tree was planted in his honor. The occasion concluded with a cook-out on the Bartholomew lawn hosted by Dana's wife, Beth, and the ladies of the club. As part of the Sheffield Elm Tree Program, another tree will be placed on the Bushnell-Sage Library grounds, also in remembrance of our lost member.

Golf tourney. Our second biggest fund-raiser, the Golf Tournament, is set for Fri., June 16, with a shotgun start at noon at the Egremont Country Club. The \$100 per player entry fee includes hotdogs and hamburgers, soda and beer during the

day, greens fees, golf cart, with hors-d'oeuvres and dinner. Prizes and a raffle are dispensed after the evening meal. The golf day includes many additional contests: putting, chipping, closest-to-the-pin, longest drive, and most accurate drive. All the winners get awards. We are always looking for players and sponsors. You can be a hole sponsor for \$150 or a tee or green sponsor for \$100. Contact anyone in the Kiwanis club for a registration form or sponsor application. We hope to make this another great community event!

Scholarship news, etc. Anita Diller, chairperson of the scholarship committee, has notified this year's winners. The total sum awarded (to be paid in January, 2007) is \$26,700. The recipients will be feted at a dinner on Tues., June 6.

Kiwanis continues its regular duties at the Breaking Bread Soup Kitchen at St. Peter's Center in Great Barrington. We also perform Highway Litter Patrol once a month along a 2-mile stretch of Route 7 from Kellogg Rd. in Sheffield to the Mass Electric grounds in Great Barrington.

—Richard Goodwin

The Sheffield Kiwanis meets Tuesdays at 7:00pm at Limey's Restaurant.

Farmers' Market of Sheffield

Fridays
4 to 7
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of town

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SHEFFIELD LAND TRUST NEWS

Grant received on behalf of the Housatonic River

The Sheffield Land Trust has received a \$10,300 grant from Housatonic River Summer 2004 to apply to the organization's land protection and stewardship efforts along the river that runs through the heart of the town. The money is the net proceeds of the region-wide festival held two years ago under the leadership of the Sheffield Art League. Most of the money came from proceeds of Art and the River: Views and Visions of the Housatonic, a book presenting historical and contemporary art that was edited by Nancy Goldberger, president of the Art League, and Andrea Scott, an Art League member.

Some of the proceeds will go toward two commemorative stone benches to be placed at river's edge. The Land Trust plans to work with property owners to get permission for a bench near Sheffield's covered bridge and another where the Appalachian Trail crosses the river by Kellogg Rd.

The grant will also benefit the Land Trust's Housatonic River Corridor Agricultural and Ecological Initiative, which aims to preserve the riparian corridor and watershed, including extensive blocks of important farmland and wildlife habitat along both sides of the river.

"The river is an incredible resource for Sheffield, providing not only great recreational opportunities, but also fabulous bottom-land soils for our farms and high-quality floodplain forest and other wildlife corridors," said Kathy Orlando, the organization's director for land preservation. "We hope the benches will encourage people to enjoy and re-connect with the river. This generous gift will also help leverage state agricul-

"Farm fields along Hewins St. set against tree lines, the river and mountains, part of the corridor to be protected."



tural preservation funds through several important agricultural preservation restrictions the Land Trust been raising money for."

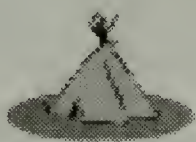
Annual meeting

The Sheffield Land Trust is planning its annual meeting for June 17 at the Southern Berkshire Regional School District campus off Berkshire School Rd., highlighting the Land Trust's work with the school, particularly on its community recreation and education trail initiative. The programs are still being worked out, but will include walking tours of the trails owned by the school and the Land Trust, including those on the recently purchased Cosgriff property off Salisbury Road and of course the ever-popular potluck lunch and update on the Land Trust's activities.

Everyone is welcome to this event—you don't need to be a Land Trust member. Come and find out more about the plans for linking the trails around the school and making them an educational and community resource. Look for particulars closer to the event date in the Shoppers Guide and other local papers.

The Sheffield Historical Society presents:
Special Free Event

**Native American
Heritage Day
Saturday, May 20
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
On the Society Grounds



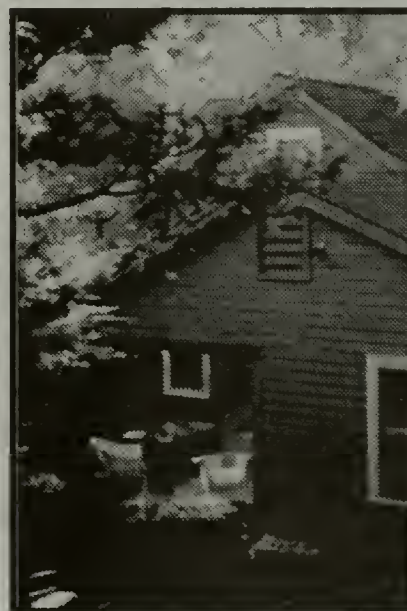
Meet a 1750-era Algonkian woman (portrayed by Jennifer Lee). She will share the Native American story through song, demonstrations, and the telling of legends.

Come early and help her set up her wigwam.

Other portrayals include Lenni Lenape Indians from the French and Indian War. And presentations of white settler hunting, fishing, and trapping activities.

Demonstrations - Hands-on activities - Games
New exhibition on early Sheffield Families.

Contact the Sheffield Historical Society at 413-229-2694 or email us at shs@sheffieldhistory.org



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FARMERS MARKET OPENS MAY 12

This season's Farmers' Market will open on Mother's Day weekend on May 12 and run every Friday through Oct. 6, rain or shine. The hours will be 3:30 to 6:30pm.

Most of last year's vendors will be returning. New regulars will include Sheffield's Corn Crib, whose store is on Route 7; the Decadent Cookie and Bizalion's Fine Foods from Great Barrington; and from Adams. Local nonprofit organizations such as Berkshire Grown, the Master Gardner program and the Sheffield Historical Society will also have booths from time to time. The market plans revolving open houses, where local business will advertise their businesses, and a different crafter will be

FARMERS MARKET VENDORS FOR THE 2006 SEASON		
Barb's Baked Goods	Dutch Desserts	Howden Farm
Berkshire Mountain Bakery	Equinox Farms	Kerry Douglas
Bizalion's Fine Foods	Farm House Bakers	Lakeview Orchards
Chart Mind Gallery	Greener Leaves	Moon On The Pond
Corn Crib	Greenhouse	Ms. Shell's Bakery
Decadent Cookie	High Country Farm	When Pigs Fly Farm
	Honey	Young Farmers

featured each week.

Bring the kids on Opening Day, to visit Laura Cory and her therapeutic dwarf horse and miniature ponies. There will be special kids' days through the season, along with Dollar Days and many other special events. —Barb Davidson

SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION

This year's Sheffield Fair is set for Sept. 9, so mark your calendars for another day of great kids' activities, vendors, music and food. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dave Smith (229-9956) or Kathy Orlando (229-8789). Community vendors, businesses and organizations are welcome, and volunteers are needed to help with planning, publicity and running the fair.

At press time, plans were still being determined for the Ashley Falls fair, which last year was combined with the fair on Sheffield's green. Stay tuned for more information in local papers in the coming months.

Solar Power at Howden Farm



Bruce Howden (center, in light sweatshirt) and David Prouty (to his left) hosted the inauguration of a new solar-powered drip-irrigation system at the 250-acre farm on Ranapo Rd. Joining them were Congressman John Olver, representative from Massachusetts' 1st Congressional District (far left), representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources, the Center for Ecological Technology, which coordinated the installation, the Sheffield Land Trust, and community members and friends. The solar panels behind the group will power the irrigation system as well as providing some power for the brick house on the farm.

Sheffield Land Trust

SAVE THE DATE

for the June 17th
Annual Meeting
at Southern
Berkshire Regional School
District celebrating the
trails next door and school
collaborations.



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BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE EVENTS

Bird Walk: Spring Migration. Sundays through May 28, 8-10am. Explore various avian habitats as spring migrants arrive. Birders of all levels are welcome. Bring binoculars. Coffee and tea available at the Visitor's Center. Please pre-register. Members: FREE. Non-members: adult \$6, child \$3.

Volunteer Work Party. Thursdays through October, 9am-11:30am. Work with staff to clear the Cobble of invasive species and learn about our native plants. Fun for all! Call in advance. Free.

Spring Wildflowers. Sat., May 6, Sundays May 7 & 14, 10:30am-12pm. The limestone soils at the Cobble support a remarkable array of woodland wildflowers. Enjoy Hepatica, Spring Beauty, Dutchman's Breeches, Cut-leaved Toothwort, Red and White Trillium and many more. Learn how these spring ephemerals are specially adapted to complete their life cycle before the trees leaf out. Pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4. Non-members: adult/child \$6.

Wild Edibles. Sat., May 13, 11am-1:30pm. Learn to identify dozens of wild edibles, how to collect them ethically, and how to incorporate them into your own cuisine. Pre-register. Members: adult \$6, child \$3. Nonmembers: adult \$8, child \$4.

Housatonic Paddle. Mon., May 29, 9am-12pm. Sundays, June 4, 11 & 18, 8:30am-11:30am. Paddle the winding Housatonic with a naturalist/guide and look for bald eagles, great blue herons, kingfishers and bank swallows. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water and binoculars.

All other equipment is provided. Pre-register. Members: adult \$15, child (10-16) \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$25, child (10-16) \$15.

Nighttime Insects. Sat., June 10 & 17, 8:30-10:00pm. The night is alive with insects! We'll attract them with a black light and vapor light, admire the uncommon beauty of longhorn beetles, sphinx moths and luna moths, and learn how these insects interact with our local flora and fauna. Pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4. Nonmembers: adult/child \$6.

Incredible Insects. Sat., June 17, 10am-12pm. A fun-filled search for beautiful, bountiful insects. Strictly catch and release! Wear long pants and socks. Pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4; family \$12. Nonmembers: adult/child \$6; family \$18.

Quest Kick-off. Sat., June 17, 1-3:30pm. Help inaugurate our new "quest," a self-guided treasure hunt that will take you back through time to the days of the Mahicans and the earliest European settlers. Learn about the "sport" of questing and make your own stamp for the book where the treasure hides. Pre-register. Members/nonmembers: \$3 materials cost.

Canoe Trip-Sheffield Covered Bridge to Bartholomew's Cobble. Sun., June 25, 9am-2pm. Explore an extraordinarily scenic 9-mile stretch of the Housatonic River with a naturalist/guide. Bring a picnic lunch. Call for more information. Minimum 7 participants. Pre-register. Members: adult \$40, child (12-16) \$25. Nonmembers: adult \$60, child (12-16) \$35.



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Cub Scouts: Pinewood Derby Winners



The Pinewood Derby is a Cub Scout class. This year, the district races were held on April 8 in Adams, MA. Left to right: Anthony Consolini, from Sheffield, came in fourth overall. He also won third place in the Wolf class. Also racing were Zach Coons, Lucas Martin, and Kosta Casivant, who won first place in the Bear class.

Sheffield Pack 28 held its 29th annual derby on March 25. The top three winners in this race were qualified to race in the district competition. The fastest cars were Tigers: Nathaniel Chase, Simon Salzmann, Daniel Litchfield IV. Also racing were Wolves Anthony Consolini, Justin Makuc, and Samuel Riva; Bears Kosta Casivant, Malik Hogan and Adam Derwitsch; and Webelos Lucas Martin, Roger Stedman and Zach Coons.

—Olympia Casivant

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

February

- 10 Hulett Hill Road LLC to Dominick L. & Brett L. Ferrusi, property at Hulett Hill Rd., \$80,000.
- 16 Nicholas Joseph & Mary Dorothy Pellegrino to Maria and Todd M. Clay, property at Berkshire Lake Estates, \$1,500.
- 17 Jeffrey J. Goodman & Gregg R. Bromberg to Rae McGonagle, property at 226 Silver St., \$299,000.
- 27 Mary N. Bartholomew to Emily H. Fisher, property at 542 Kelsey Rd., \$460,000.

March

- 9 Jonathan Ingham to Christopher & Tyler I. Weld, property at 1640B Home Rd., \$100,000.
- 13 Robert S. Kauffman to Beth A. Harlan, property at 604 Sheffield Plain, \$45,000.
- 17 Kim Rice, William F. Rice and Terry Montgomery to Benjamin F. Powers III, property at 1635 Hewins St., \$130,000.
- 24 Rose Cosgriff (estate of) to Andrew Pruhenski, property at 241 Root Ln., \$182,000.

April

- 5 Barbara B. Fioravanti to Michael & Linda Buonanno, property at Berkshire Lake Estates, \$38,500.

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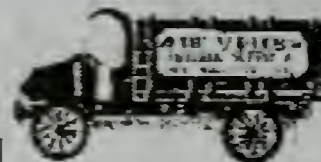
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Calendar Page

May

- 8 Town Elections, Town Hall, 9am-7pm, p. 13
- 12 Timothy Kenslea talk, Dewey Hall, 7:30pm, p. 17
- 12 Farmer's Market opens, 3:30pm, p. 20
- 14 **Mother's Day**
- 19-21 Bulky Waste Collection, Transfer Station, p. 14
- 20 Todd Mack book talk, Bushnell-Sage Library, 2pm, p. 11
- 20 Native American Heritage Day, Sheffield Historical Society grounds, 11am-4pm, p. 17
- 26-28 Book Sale, Bushnell-Sage Library, p. 11
- 29 **Memorial Day**
- 29 Ashley Falls Memorial Day parade, 8am, p. 6
- 29 Sheffield Memorial Day parade, 11am, p. 2

June

- 3 Dennis Watlington book talk, Bushnell-Sage Library, 2pm, p. 11
- 9 Sheffield Historical Society Annual Meeting, Dewey Hall, 7:30am, p. 17
- 10 Jeff Title and Lisa Cohen book talk, Bushnell-Sage Library, 2pm, p. 11
- 10 Old Parish Benefit—The Wiyos, Old Parish Church green, 8pm, p. 6
- 15 **Sheffield Times** deadline
- 16 "Five Artists" show opens, Old Stone Store, p. 17
- 16 Kiwanis Golf Tourney, Egremont Country Club, p. 118
- 17 Sheffield Land Trust Annual meeting, Southern Berkshire Regional School, p. 19
- 18 **Father's Day**
- 21 **First day of summer**

July

- 4 **Independence Day**

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

May

- 18 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon—12 noon, Egremont Country Club

June

- 15 (Thursday) Tri-Town Picnic, 12 noon, French Park, Egremont
- 29 (Thursday) BBQ, 6pm, Dewey Hall, Senior Center

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number – i.e. "1st", "3rd" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.

Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd 9 (or Tues. if Holiday)
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd
- Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays
- Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st

Tuesdays:

- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 8am -- Noon
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4th
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:30pm, 1st, 3rd (except November)
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm
- Physical Fitness, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 9am
- Council on Aging, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 3rd

Wednesdays:

- Knitting Club, 1-2:30, Dewey Hall, Senior Center

Thursdays:

- Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 5 – 7pm
- *Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd
- *Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd
- Set-Back Playing, Dewey Hall, 10:15am
- Physical Fitness, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 9am
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Fridays:

- Farmer's Market, Old Parish Parking Lot, 3:30-6:30pm

Saturdays:

- Saturday Market, Dewey Memorial Hall, 9:30am-1pm
- Marketplace, American Legion Hall, 10am-3pm
- Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4th

Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

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Memorial Day Parades

Monday, May 29

The Ashley Falls parade will start at 8am at the village green and marching to the cemetery on Clayton Rd., where the ceremony will take place.

The Sheffield parade will start at 11am at the Police Station, Route 7 and Berkshire School Rd., with ceremonies in the center of Sheffield at the war memorials and Barnard Park.

Place
Stamp
Here

Town Elections, May 8th 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Town Hall

SAVE THE DATE!

VENDORS, EXHIBITORS, & VOLUNTEERS WANTED

For Sheffield in Celebration
Saturday, September 9, 2006

Contact Dave Smith (229-9956) or
Kathy Orlando (229-8789, wildkato@aol.com)

Sheffield **TIMES**

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA
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